

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-5, 7-20, and 22-25 are presently pending in this application and have been amended to more particularly define the invention. Claims 6 and 21 have been canceled to expedite prosecution.

It is noted that the claim amendments are made only to assure grammatical and idiomatic English and improved form under United States practice, and are not made to distinguish the invention over the prior art or narrow the claims or for any statutory requirements of patentability. Further, Applicant specifically states that no amendment to any claim herein should be construed as a disclaimer of any interest in or right to an equivalent of any element or feature of the amended claim.

Claims 4, 15-17, 19 and 22-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, with the contention that the claims are narrative and indefinite. This rejection is traversed. All the claims, including claims 4, 15-17, 19 and 22-24, have been amended to assure grammatical and idiomatic English. It is accordingly submitted that this rejection should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

It is noted that the Office Action alleges that claim 19 recites the expression “the finding of edge part of the object” and that this limitation is not well written. The undersigned attorney was unable to locate the expression “the finding of edge part of the object” in claim 19, either as originally presented or as amended above. If the Examiner repeats this rejection, he is requested to point out the precise location within claim 19 at which the expression is found.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges that claims 6-13 and 21 are indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 6, while removing features unnecessary to patentability. Likewise, claim 20 has been

amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 21. The other amended independent claims -- 15, 18, and 23 -- contain corresponding subject matter. Consequently, all of the independent claims 1, 15, 18, 20, and 23 are allowable, as are all of their respective dependent claims 2-5, 7-14, 16-17, 19, 22, and 24-25.

The Office Action objects to Figure 15. The Submission of Replacement Drawing Sheet Including Drawing Correction amends Figure 15 to label it as Background Art.

The specification has been amended to correct clear errors, noting that the amendments cause the amended paragraphs to agree with page 15, lines 12-13 and page 17, lines 16-17.

The Abstract has been amended to better comply with United States practice.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that claims 1-5, 7-20, and 22-25, all the claims presently pending in the application, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and that the application is in condition for allowance. Such action would be appreciated.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

To the extent necessary, Applicant petitions for an extension of time under 37 CFR §1.136. Please charge any shortage in the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including

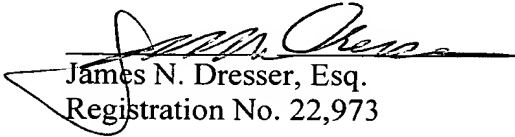
Serial No.: 09/781,280  
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extension of time fees, to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-0481 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully Submitted,

Date:

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**FIG. 15**  
(BACKGROUND ART)

